

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

INDOCHINA

- I. Moscow has recently hinted at possible peace in Indochina. *Pravda Sept 2*
 - A. Peiping has followed by stating that France can find an Indochina solution only through negotiations. *(see quote)*
 - B. Communists overtures are apparently aiming only for a position of maneuverability in case of sudden changes in the Far East picture.
 - C. Viet Minh failure to take up peace theme suggests no definite Communist policy yet formed on peace.
- II. There is no let-up in Soviet and Chinese support of the Viet Minh.

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- A. Both Moscow and Peiping *recently* publicizing Ho Chi Minh's *repeated* assertion that independence can only be won by force of arms.

1. They express confidence in a Viet Minh victory.

No real evidence

- III. ~~Best bet is~~ that Soviets ~~do not~~ want negotiations now.

~~A. Communists never willing negotiate conflict they are winning and Viet Minh is winning.~~

- A.* Probably they are trying to exploit war weariness in France.

1. Such exploitation would be designed to cause US-French conflicts or,

2. To undermine Vietnamese faith in the French.

- IV. ~~Also possible that peace theme is hedge against future Viet Minh reverses.~~

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(Indochina)

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A. ~~Switch from military to political~~
~~action always follows Communist~~
~~military defeats in Far East and~~
~~used to screen them.~~

V.

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major Viet Minh effort this fall
will be gainst vital Tonkin delta.

- A. Reports on movements of enemy
regular divisions and infiltration
tactics along southern leg of
delta triangle bear this out.
- B. Three more divisions are poised
to move against northern defenses.
- C. Viet Minh has withdrawn most of
its forces from Laos and reduced
supply activity there.

VI. The delta's vulnerability is aggravated
by heavy infiltration, mostly by Viet
Minh regulars.

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- A. This forces French to use all but three divisions there for static defense.
 - 1. Viet Minh's regular divisions have almost unrestricted freedom of movement.
 - B. French say the Viet Minh could even overrun delta, but probably won't because of the high cost in casualties.
- VII. Cambodia's newly proclaimed "neutrality" toward war in neighboring Vietnam not a surprising development.
- A. Cambodia has its hands full with local insurgents.
 - 1. Viet Minh has only 1,000 regulars there.
 - B. The Cambodians are overwhelmingly preoccupied with the independence issue and integrity of their own territory.

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C. They are not able to make any
large contribution to war in
Vietnam.

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